

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
DOCKET NO. 91-AO-2  
CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL GENERAL  
ORDINANCE NO. G.O. 3, 1992

Original: 71-AO-4  
Amending: 86-AO-1  
88-AO-3  
91-AO-1

ZONING ORDINANCE 91-AO-2  
AMENDING  
THE SIGN REGULATIONS  
OF  
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA

ADOPTED:

MDC  
CITY-COUNTY  
COUNCIL

January 15, 1992  
February 24, 1992

Department of Metropolitan Development  
Division of Development Services

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 91-AO-2

CITY-COUNTY GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. G.O. 3, 1992

AN ORDINANCE to amend the Marion County Council Ordinance No. 8-1957, as amended, the Zoning Ordinance for Marion County which ordinance includes the Sign Regulations for Marion County, and fixing a time when the same shall take effect.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY  
THE CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS  
AND OF  
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Sign Regulations of Marion County, Indiana, adopted under Metropolitan Development Commission Docket Number 71-AO-4, as amended, be further amended as follows:

- A. That Section 14.02, be amended by deleting the crosshatched language and inserting the underscored language as follows:

- 6 "ERECT" means to construct, build, raise, assemble, place, affix, attach, create, paint, draw or in any other way bring into being or establish.
- 7 "EXIT ROADWAY" means any public road or turning roadway including deceleration lanes, by which traffic may leave the main-traveled way of an Interstate highway, Freeway or Expressway to reach the general road system within the county, irrespective of whether traffic may also enter the main-traveled way by such road or turning roadway.
- 8 "EXPRESSWAY" means a thoroughfare designated as an "Expressway" on the Official Thoroughfare Plan for Marion County, Indiana ~~as adopted by Resolution 89-CPS-R-5 of the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County.~~
- 9 "EXTENSION" shall mean any vertical or horizontal embellishments to a 10.5 foot by 36 foot or 14 foot by 48 foot advertising sign designed as a part of and integrally incorporated into the announcement, declaration, device, demonstration or insignia used as a part of an advertising sign. An extension shall have a maximum vertical dimension of four (4) feet above the top of a sign, a maximum horizontal dimension of one (1) foot to the sides of the sign and a maximum horizontal dimension of one (1) foot to the bottom of the sign.
- 10 "FREEWAY" means a thoroughfare designated as a "Freeway" on the Official Thoroughfare Plan for Marion County, Indiana ~~as adopted by Resolution 89-CPS-R-5 of the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County.~~
- 11 "GROUND SIGN": a sign which is supported by one or more uprights or braces in the ground with sign surface extending downward to or near ground level.
- 12 "HIGHWAY" means an Interstate highway, Freeway or Expressway as herein defined.
- 13 "INCIDENTAL SIGN": a name plate or sign relating the lot or use thereof and designating accessory uses, direction, identification, information, or real estate for sale, rent, or lease.

-14 "INFORMATIONAL SITE" means an area or site established and maintained within or adjacent to the right-of-way of a highway on the Interstate System by or under the supervision or control of a State Highway Department, wherein panels for the display of advertising and informational signs may be erected and maintained.

-15 "INTEGRATED CENTER" means an area of development (commercial, industrial or any combination of commercial, industrial and residential uses) of one or more lots, comprised of:

- a. two or more individual, nonrelated and separately operated uses in one building sharing common site facilities; or,
- b. one or more buildings containing non-related and separately operated uses occupying a common site, which utilize one or a combination of common site facilities, such as driveway entrances, parking areas, driving lanes, signs, maintenance and similar common services; or,
- c. one or more buildings containing non-related and separately operated uses occupying individual sites, which are interrelated by the utilization of one or a combination of common facilities, such as driveway entrances, public or private street network, parking areas, maintenance and other services.

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-16 "INTERSTATE HIGHWAY" means a Federal Aid Interstate Highway as constructed and designated by the Indiana State Highway Department with the prefix "I", as, for example, "I-465".

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-17 "LEGIBLE" means capable of being read without visual aid by a person of normal visual acuity.

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-18 "LOT": A piece, parcel, plot or tract of land designated by its owner or developer to be used, developed or built upon as a unit under single ownership or control and occupied or intended for occupancy by a use permitted in the zoning ordinances for Marion County, Indiana, including one (1) or more main buildings, accessory uses thereto and the required yards as provided for the Zoning Ordinances of Marion County, Indiana and may consist of:

- a. A single lot of record.
- b. A portion of a lot of record.
- c. A combination of complete lots of record, or complete lots of record and portions of lots of record, or of portions of lots of record.

A lot may or may not coincide with a lot of record.

For the purpose of this definition, the ownership of a lot shall be defined to include:

- a. The person(s) who holds either fee simple title to the property or is a life tenant as disclosed in the records of the township assessor;
- b. A contract vendee;
- c. A long-term lessee (but only if the lease is recorded among the records of the County Recorder and has at least twenty-five (25) years remaining before its expiration at the time of applying for a permit).

A lot may be divided into two (2) or more lots, provided that all resulting lots and all buildings thereon shall comply with all of the applicable provisions of the Zoning Ordinances of Marion County. If such a lot, however, is occupied by a nonconforming building, such lot may be subdivided provided such subdivision does not create a new noncompliance or increase the degree of noncompliance of such building.

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- 19 "LOT OF RECORD": A lot which is part of a subdivision or a lot or a parcel described by metes and bounds, the description of which has been so recorded in the office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana.

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- 20 "LOT SIZE" shall mean the area of a lot that is available for use or development and does not include any area lying within the right-of-way of any public or private street or of easement for access or egress into the subject lot or adjoining lots.

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- 21 "MAINTAIN" means to allow to exist.

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- 22 "MAIN-TRAVELED WAY" means the traveled way of a highway on which through traffic is carried. In the case of a divided highway, the traveled way of each of the separated roadways for traffic in opposite directions is a main- traveled way. The term "Main Traveled Way" does not include such facilities as frontage roads, turning roadways, or parking areas.

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- 23 "POLE SIGN": a sign which is supported by one or more up-rights or braces in the ground with all of the sign surface attached to or supported by any such upright or brace located at a minimum of 9' above the ground level.

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- 24 "PROJECTING SIGN": a sign attached only to a building and projecting outward therefrom more than eighteen (18) inches, with a maximum permitted horizontal dimension of eight (8) feet from the building at the greatest distance.

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- 25 "PROTECTED AREAS" means all areas inside the boundaries of Marion County which are adjacent to and within six hundred and sixty feet of the edge of the right-of-way of all Highways within the County. Where a Highway terminates at a County boundary which is not perpendicular or normal to the centerline of the Highway, "protected areas" also means all areas inside the boundary of such County which are within six hundred and sixty feet of the edge of the right-of-way of the Highway in the adjoining County.

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- 26 "PUMP-ISLAND SIGN": a sign either affixed directly to a gasoline pump or otherwise attached to the pump or pump island.

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- 27 "ROOF SIGN": a sign erected, constructed, and maintained upon the roof of a building.

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- 28 "TEMPORARY SIGN": any sign or sign structure not permanently affixed or installed and intended for short-term use.

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- 29 "TRADE NAME" shall include brand name, trademark, distinctive symbol, or other similar device or thing used to identify particular products or services.

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- 30 "TRAVELED WAY" means the portion of a roadway for the movement of vehicles, exclusive of shoulders.

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- 31 "TURNING ROADWAY" means a connecting roadway for traffic turning between two intersection legs of an interchange, between two interstate highways.

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- 32 "SCENIC AREA" means any public park or area of particular scenic beauty or historical significance designated by or pursuant to local or state law as a scenic area.

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- 33 "SIGN" shall mean and include any outdoor announcement, declaration, device, demonstration, or insignia used for direction, information, identification, or to advertise or promote any business, product, activity, services, or any interests, but shall not include any traffic control, informational or directional sign placed within the right-of-way of any Highway or public road by a governmental agency or unit having authority to do so under any law.

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- 34 "SIGN ENCROACHMENT": the placement of a sign or sign structure or the extension of any part of a sign or sign structure into a required yard or public right-of-way in violation of the requirements of the zoning ordinances.

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- 35 "SIGN FACING": the surface of the sign upon, against, or through which the message of the sign is exhibited.

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- 36 "SIGN STRUCTURE": the supports, uprights, bracing, and framework for the sign. In the case of a sign structure consisting of two or more sides, where the angle formed between any of the sides (or the projection thereof) exceeds fifteen (15) degrees, each side shall be considered a separate sign structure.

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- 37 "SIGN SURFACE": the entire area within a single, continuous perimeter enclosing all elements of the sign which form an integral part of the display. For business signs, open spaces not in excess of twelve (12) inches between the elements of the sign shall not be included in the calculation of sign surface area; provided, however, the total open space between all elements shall not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the total area enclosed by the continuous perimeter line.

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- 38 "VISIBLE" means capable of being seen (whether or not legible) without visual aid by a person of normal visual acuity.

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- 39 "WALL SIGN": a sign which is affixed to an exterior wall of a building, but which does not constitute a Projecting Sign, as defined herein.

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- 40 "WINDOW SIGN": a sign affixed to a window, being either temporary or permanent.

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- 41 "STREET": every public way for motor vehicular traffic, whether designated as a street, road, alley, highway or any other term commonly applied to a public way for passage of motor vehicles.

B. That Section 14.06-3(3), be amended by deleting the crosshatched language as follows:

- (3) SIGNS FOR INTEGRATED CENTERS AND/INDUSTRIALS/PARKS - in addition to the business signages permitted in (1) above, integrated centers ~~++comprising a number of individual/nonrelated and separately operated uses in one building and sharing common site facilities or one or more buildings containing nonrelated and separately operated uses occupying a site under one ownership and utilizing one or a combination of common site facilities such as driveway entrances, parking areas, maintenance and similar common services++and industrial parks~~ may have identification signs as specified below:

- i. NUMBER OF INTEGRATED CENTER SIGNS - one (1) sign oriented to the principal frontage of the site. In the case of a site located with frontage on two (2) streets shown as primary or secondary thoroughfares in the Official Thoroughfare Plan, one (1) additional sign may be oriented to the secondary frontage.
- ii. CONTENT - such sign ~~ofr~~ signs shall be limited to the name of the center ~~of industrial park~~, trademark, product, activity or service of each business, and directional guide to the location of each tenant in the integrated center ~~of park~~.
- iii. The maximum surface area of the signs shall not exceed one (1) square foot for each lineal foot of frontage of the lot, and shall not exceed a maximum of five hundred (500) square feet for the principal sign and three hundred (300) square feet for the secondary sign.



SECTION 2. If any provision of this ordinance shall be held invalid, its invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and for this purpose the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL OF INDIANAPOLIS  
AND OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA

\_\_\_\_\_  
President (or Presiding Officer)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk)